



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAYOR KIRKINDALL'S STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION TO DE-ANNEXATION

MADISON, AL, MARCH 19: I was absolutely appalled to learn that State Senator Lowell Barron has prepared a bill to forcibly de-annex 263 acres of prime commercial property from the City of Madison. The advertisement for this bill was buried in the last column of the legal ads on the back page of *The Huntsville Times* in an obvious attempt to sneak the bill through the Legislature. The City of Madison has been in negotiations with a nationwide developer to develop a major commercial center on this land. There can be no reason to de-annex it from Madison other than to deprive the City of the sales tax and property tax revenue it will generate, and which the City must have to build badly needed roads and schools.

This is nothing less than "condemnation by legislation," the worst possible sort of eminent domain abuse. It is an absolute disgrace that a State Senator whose district is many miles from Madison should try to damage Madison so

fundamentally. It is a truly shameful attempt to interfere with matters that do not affect Senator Barron or his district. It is unconscionable. This is big money, raw power politics at its nastiest.

I call on all our legislators to oppose this meddlesome and destructive legislation, and should it reach the Governor's desk, I will call on him to veto it. This bill, if passed, will set a terrible precedent. It will allow large cities to steal property from smaller cities all across the State.

The City of Madison, and I personally, will use all means at our disposal to prevent this scandalous attempt to damage the City's growth, finances and future. This outrage will not stand.

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